(d) whether Government's pattern of assistance to the existing scheme has been increased uniformly or otherwise; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir. As per the Budget announcement, the Mid Day Meal Scheme will be extended to upper primary classes in Government and Government-aided schools in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) in the country in the year 2007-08. There are no EBBs in Goa.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir, in respect of EBBs for the year 2007-08.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Scheme was revised in 2006 to 'provide mid-day meal to children in classes I-V in Government, Government-aided schools and EGS/AIE centres as per the following details:–

- Nutritional norm was increased from 300 calories to 450 calories and protein content from 8-12 grams-to 12 grams per child per school day.
- Central assistance towards cooking cost in the case of States in NorthEast Region was raised from Re. 1.00 per child/school day to Rs. 1.80 provided the State Government contributed a minimum of 20 paise per child per school day. For other States and UT's, it was raised from Re. 1.00 to Rs. 1.50 provided the State Government./UT administration contributed a minimum of 50 paise per child per school day.
- Provision for Central assistance to construct kitchen-cum-store up to a maximum of Rs. 60,000/- per unit has been made. However, States are encouraged to ensure convergence with other rural infrastructure development schemes for construction of kitchen-cum-stores.
- Provision for Central assistance for procurement. and replacement of kitchen devices at an average cost of Rs. 5,000/- per unit has been made.
- Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (MME) cost is provided at the rate of 2% of the cost of foodgrain, cooking cost and transportation cost. The amount is shared in the ratio of 1.8:0.2% between the State and the Centre.

Expenditure on higher education

2778. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 0.37 per cent of GDP is going towards higher education at present which is three times lower than what it is in developed countries;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that our public expenditure is $406 per student, which is lowest as compared to $2728 in China, $ 666 in Indonesia and even in Malaysia it is $ 625; and

(c) whether private players like ICFA/Amity/Symbiosis are playing a stellar role in contributing their might, still much needs to be done by Government towards becoming a major global economy by producing trained professionals in each field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The expenditure on Higher Education including Technical Education was 0.44 percentage of GDP during 2005-2006.

(b) The Central Government is aware of the fact that our public expenditure per student is low as compared to several other countries.

(c) Efforts have been made by the Central Government by increasing the budgetary provision for higher education, including technical education substantially since 2004-2005 resulting in the creation of new Central Universities and other higher educational institutions. The strategy being followed is to expand capacity as well as increase opportunities of access to all sections of the society, while maintaining standards. There is no bar on private not-for-profit initiatives in the field of higher and technical education.

Opening of an IIT in Chhattisgarh

†2779. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was announced to open an IIT in Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether a resolution of the State Legislative Assembly has been received in this regard; and

(c) whether polytechnic colleges have been sanctioned for five districts and if so, the details of the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Central Government has not taken any decision to open an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Chhattisgarh. However, the Legislative Assembly of Chhattisgarh State has passed a non-official resolution requesting the Central Government for establishment of an IIT at Bhilai.

(c) The Government have initiated a scheme to provide one time financial assistance for establishment of polytechnics in certain specially identified districts of the country, where there is no polytechnic as of now. Koriya, Jashpur, Kanker and Dantewara are four such districts identified in the State of Chhattisgarh.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.